Hike in fare on Calicut-Gulf Air routes by AI

4105. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has increased fare on the Calicut-Gulf air routes;

(b) if so, what are the increased rates in flight charges on different routes; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to reduce the increased fare?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Effective 1st January 2001, all fares from India to world wide destinations, including Calicut to the Gulf, were increased by around 10% due to rise in fuel cost. Since this increase was agreed to at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) coordinating conference and implemented by all carriers, Air India alone cannot roll it back unless agreed to by all the concerned carriers at the next IATA conference.

Operation of AIR services by foreign airlines from Thiruvananthapuram and Nedumpassery

4106. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given sanction to foreign airlines companies to operate air services from Thiruvananthapuram and Nedumpassery Airports;

(b) if so, the details of the companies which were given sanction; and

(c) the routes on which they will operate air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air, Oman Air & Qatar

Airways are presently operating from Thiruvananthapuram airport to various destinations in Gulf whereas Silk Air and Sri Lankan airlines are operating from Thiruvananthapuram to Singapore and Colombo respectively. In addition, the designated airlines of South Africa, Israel and Uzbekistan have necessary rights to operate to Thiruvananthapuram but have not yet done so. Although no foreign airlines are operating to Nedumpassery (Cochin) at present. The designated airline of Turkmenistan has been granted Cochin as an additional point of call. Cochin has also been offered to the designated airline of Saudi Arabia as a point of call in place of Chennai. Further a commitment has also been given during air services consultations with UAE (Dubai) in May, 2000 that Emirates will be granted access either to Thiruvananthapuram or Cochin as nominated by the Government of India effective September, 2002.

Resignation of Chief Pilots from Alliance Air

4107. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four Chief Pilots resigned from the Alliance Air;

(b) if so, the reasons for such resignations; and

(c) whether Government have initiated recruitment process for filling up of vacancies caused due to resignations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Three Chief Pilots and one Training Captain (Instructor) resigned from the services of Alliance Air in January/ February, 2001.

(b) These Pilots have resigned to join foreign airlines.

(c) Three Senior Captains have recently been promoted as Chief Pilots to fill up the vacancies. Two Training Captains (Check Pilots) have been upgraded as Instructors/Examiners.